

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /083 W
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P R 171816Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8618
INFO RUF BFXAMEMBASSY BONN 2404
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
01/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1081
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS UNN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 368

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: LABOR REFORM DEBATE

REF: MADRID 331

1. WHILE THE GOVT'S LABOR REFORM BILL REMAINS STALLED IN
COMMITTEE, LIBERAL SUPPORTERS OF THE LEGISLATION ON JANUARY
14 TURNED THE TABLES ON CONSERVATIVE "BUNKER" ELEMENTS AS
THE "BATTLE OF AMENDMENTS" CONTINUED. BY A VOTE OF 20 TO
13, THE RESPTRICTIVE EFFECT OF AN EARLIER BUNKER-SPONSORED
AMENDMENT (WHICH SOUGHT TO WATER DOWN THE RIGHT OF TRADE
UNION FORMATION - SEE REFTTEL) WAS IN EFFECT NULLIFIED.
COMMITTEE DEBATE STARTS AGAIN JANUARY 18.
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2. FRANCISCO GUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF SSO'S (SPANISH
SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION) INT' LRELATIONS OFFICE AND A MEMBER
OF THE CORTES, COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS TO LABATT JANUARY 17.
THE GOVT REMAINED FIRM IN ITS DETERMINATION TO PUSH THE
BILL THROUGH, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. THERE WAS NO TELLING
HOW LONG THE COMMITTEE DEBATE MIGHT DRAG ON, AND PLENARY

SESSION CONSIDERATION COULD BE PUSHED BACK FURTHER FROM LATE JANUARY TO THE FIRST HALF OF FEBRUARY. NOTING THAT THE INFORMATION WAS SENSITIVE, HE CNFIRMED THAT THE GOVT WAS PREPARED TO ACHIEVE LABOR REFORM BY DECREE IF THE BILL GOT TOO BOGGED DOWN IN THE CORTES. HOWEVER, HE REMAINED OPTIMISTIC THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO THAT OPTION.

3. AT ALL EVENTS, SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER ENRIQUE DE LA MATA STILL PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO GEVEVA NEXT WEEK (ACCOMPANIED BY GURRERO) TO DISCUSS SPANISH SIGNATURE OF ILO CONVENTIONS 87 AND 98 WITH ILO SEC GEN BLANCHARD. DE LA MATA PLANNED TO ASSURE BLANCHARD THAT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER SPAIN WOULD HAVE ITS LABOR REFORM. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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